

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AF-06 AS-01 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /073 W  
----- 061819

O R 181505Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7328

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14336

ROME FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE

SUBJECT: CARDINAL BERTOLI VISIT BEIRUT

1. CARDINAL BERTOLI DEPARTED BEIRUT SUNDAY NOV 16  
AFTER A ONE WEEK VISIT DURING WHICH TIME HE SAW MOST,  
IF NOT ALL, LEADING LEBANESE, BOTH LAY AND CLERICAL.  
HE ALSO MET WITH YASSER ARAFAT AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR.  
AT OUTSET VISIT HE OF COURSE CALLED ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE  
AND DID SO AGAIN PRIOR LEAVING BEIRUT. LITTLE PRECISELY  
IS KNOWN RE CARDINAL'S CONCLUSIONS. HE DEFINITELY  
PLAYED HIS CARDS CLOSE TO THE CHEST AND SAVED HIS  
VIEWS FOR POPE, TO WHOM, ACCORDING TO PRESS, HE REPORTED  
IN PERSON MONDAY, NOV 17. DISCUSSIONS WITH RAYMOND  
EDDE, FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND ABDULLAH YAFI, WITH WHOM  
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BERTOLI MET, LEAD US TO CONCLUDE THAT BERTOLI, A WISE,

KEEN AND EXPERIENCED OBSERVER OF THE LEBANESE SCENE,  
CAME UP WITH NO NEW THOUGHTS ON DEVELOPMENTS HERE.

2. ONLY DISCORDANT EXCHANGE THAT WE ARE AWARE OF WAS  
SUNNI MUFTI'S REMARKS COMPARING CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON  
TO THE WHITES IN RHODESIA. THIS DEFINITELY DID NOT GO  
DOWN WELL WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE.

3. WHILE CERTAIN CATHOLIC PUNDITS ARE SPREADING THE  
TALE THAT THE CARDINAL CONCLUDED THAT THE LEBANON'S  
PROBLEMS ARE DUE TO AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST PLOT,  
WE DO NOT SHARE THAT CONCLUSION FOLLOWING OUR DISCUSSIONS  
WITH THOSE CITED ABOVE. IT WOULD APPEAR RATHER THAT THE  
CARDINAL WAS RESPONSIVE TO THE FACT THAT THE HARD LINE  
CHRISTIANS MUST MODIFY THEIR ATTITUDE AND ENGAGE IN  
SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOSLEMS AND BE PREPARED  
TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR THAT THE  
CARDINAL WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE NEED FOR SOCIAL REFORM  
IN THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND WAS  
SYMPATHETIC TO THESE PLEADING THE CASE OF THE LESS  
PRIVILEGED.

3. IN CONCLUSION, IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR HE WAS NOT  
REPEAT NOT IMPRESSED WITH THE HARD POSITION ADVANCED  
BY THE MARONITE MONKS AND COUNSELED THEM TO BE MORE  
SUPPLE IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE LEBANON'S CURRENT  
PROBLEMS.

4. THESE DEDUCTIONS MUST BE TREATED WITH CONSIDERABLE  
CAUTION AND, AS RAYMOND EDDE INFORMED EMBOFF, IT  
IS OBVIOUS THAT BERTOLI WAS HERE TO LISTEN AND TO LEARN,  
AND NOT TO EXPRESS AT THISTIME HIS VIEWS.

5. COUVE DE MURVILLE ARRIVES TOMORROW. FRENCH AMB ARGOD  
TOLD ME AT LUNCH TODAY THAT COUVE WILL NOT RPEAT NOT BE  
SEEING BERTOLI PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL, BUT THAT FRENCH  
AMB TO THE HOLY SEE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PICK BERTOLI'S  
BRAINS FOR THE POSSIBLE BENEFIT OF THE FORMER FRENCH  
FOREIGN MINISTER.

GODLEY  
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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, OTRA, LE, (BERTOLI, CARDINAL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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